

**REMARKS**

In response to the Examiner's Restriction requirement, Applicants hereby elect the invention of Group I (e.g., drawn to a cross joint as defined by claims 1-4), without traverse. Applicants reserve the opportunity to file a Divisional Application for the non-elected invention later.

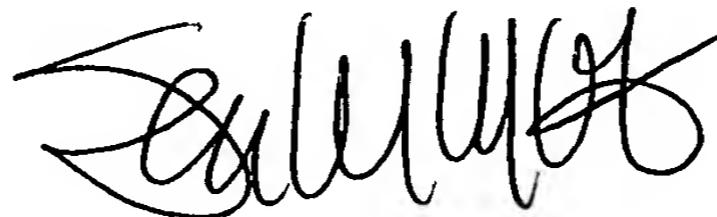
Further, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner's acknowledgment of the priority document filed on November 4, 2003.

Early, favorable prosecution on the merits is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A conditional petition is made for any extension of time which may become necessary. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees for such extension and to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean M. McGinn  
Reg. No. 34,386

Date: 10/20/04  
McGinn & Gibb, PLLC  
Intellectual Property Law  
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200  
Vienna, Virginia 22182-3817  
(703) 761-4100  
Customer No. 21254